

chief of staff to Senator Paula Hawkins of Florida. In early 2001, he became director of the Port Authority, just as I became chairman of the U.S. House Aviation Subcommittee in Congress.

With New York area airports under his authority, he called on me as an old friend to come to New York, review the air congestion problem and conduct a hearing on the matter. I obliged my friend Neal and after visiting John F. Kennedy International, Newark Liberty International and LaGuardia Airports, held a hearing in the Port Authority Hearing Room in the World Trade Center. After the hearing, Neal hosted me and several other guests in the Port Authority's Dining Room adjacent to the Windows of the World Restaurant at the top of the World Trade Center. It was in that same room where I left Neal and the others who assisted me that they all met their deaths on Tuesday, September 11th.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld invited me and several other Members of Congress to a breakfast meeting at the Pentagon. Our discussion that day was how to rebuild our Nation's military capability that had been downsized under the outgoing Clinton Administration. Specific to the conversation was how our stretched and limited military could muster the resources to deal with a future engagement.

As the meeting concluded near 9 a.m., I was speaking with the Defense Secretary at the end of the conference table as word of the first plane to hit the World Trade Center reached us. Then we were told of the second attack. While the Secretary stepped into his adjacent office, I conferred with several of his top aides about the situation. Missing my ride back to Capitol Hill, I sought a ride to the House Office Building and arrived just as the plane hit the Pentagon.

Killed in the Pentagon, where I had departed just minutes before, was Terry Lynch who worked as a U.S. Senate staffer for Alabama Senator RICHARD SHELBY. Terry and I were friends from our U.S. Senate staff days. On Flight 93, was Barbara Olsen who worked with me on the House Government Reform Committee. She was a brilliant and most capable professional and a dear friend who was killed by fanatic terrorists.

While 7 years have passed, I can never forget these friends or the manner in which they were taken from us and their families. As Americans, we are blessed with a life most of the world can only dream about. While we go about our lives, we should not and can not ever forget those taken from us on September 11th.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WHITPAIN—FRANKLINVILLE ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSE 150TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I come before you today to congratulate the Historical Society of Whitpain on the 150th anniversary of the Franklinville School. The Franklinville School, a one room schoolhouse, was originally constructed in 1858 to serve the small area of Franklinville and served in that capacity until 1916. After its closure, Ralph Beaver Strausburger, a Naval Academy Graduate and aide to President Theodore Roosevelt, purchased the schoolhouse as part of a small estate when he married into the Singer family, of the Singer Sewing Machine Company.

Mr. Strausburger modeled his estate after a French manor house and named it Normandy Farms. The Franklinville School was an integral part of Strausburger's estate, serving as a school not only for Strausburger's children but also for the children of the employees of the estate.

In the following years, the schoolhouse was abandoned and fell into a state of dilapidation and disrepair. In 1983, The Historical Society of Whitpain was founded for the purpose of restoring the old schoolhouse. Over the next 14 years, volunteers tirelessly worked to raise money to restore the schoolhouse and in 1997, the Historical Society gained title to the Franklinville School.

The Society has worked tirelessly to finish the restoration of the schoolhouse, including replacing the building's unsafe flooring. Prior to the completion of the restoration, the Society commissioned an archeological dig and recovered a number of artifacts that exemplify America of the 1850's, including medicine bottles, inkwells and an 1876 Liberty Head quarter.

Madam Speaker, once again I congratulate the members of the Historical Society of Whitpain on their tireless efforts to reclaim and restore the history that has made our country what it is today. It is through such efforts that we can hope to learn more about our Nation's past and ensure that our extraordinary history is accessible to future generations.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR.  
CHARLES A. SARDO, SR.

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 11, 2008*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Charles A. Sardo, Sr., a Southeastern Pennsylvania resident who dedicated himself to proudly serving his community, country, church and family.

Before his passing on January 21, 2008, Mr. Sardo served his community for 22 years as chairman of the Planning Board and Zoning Hearing Board in Lower Providence Township, Montgomery County. His service also included holding the posts of Building Inspector, Zoning Officer, Road Master, and Township Manager in Worcester Township, Montgomery County. His most recent post was Borough Manager in Trappe, Montgomery County. During his 22-month tenure, Mr. Sardo secured grants through the Kaboom program, which financed the construction of a playground at Waterworks Park. This playground will always stand as a symbol to Mr. Sardo's tireless commitment to the communities that he served.

In addition to giving his all to enhance communities, Mr. Sardo answered the call to serve his country as a Marine. It was during that service that an injury led to his honorable discharge.

While public service demanded a large portion of his time, Mr. Sardo always had time to faithfully serve his church. He was an active member of Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary for 35 years where he attended mass and hosted an annual roast beef dinner for his congregation. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, he was recognized for great leadership as Knight of the Year and as Grand Knight for the Pope John Paul I Council.

Mr. Sardo's devotion to his family was about the only thing that surpassed his long list of good works in his public life. He was a proud father who was always involved in his children's activities, including Little League Baseball and Cub Scouts. He was a faithful and conscientious father, grandfather, and husband.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the life of Mr. Charles A. Sardo who was a shining example of what all of us strive to be, a dedicated citizen and loving family man.